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NEWS RELEASE

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

DEC 12 1985

December 10, 1985

EDMONTON -- Alberta's land offer to the federal government to resolve the treaty land entitlement claim of the Lubicon Lake Indian Band has been accepted, announced Milt Pahl, Minister responsible for Alberta Native Affairs.

Based on recent discussions with David Crombie, federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Alberta proposed the transfer of the 25.4 square miles of land set aside by the Province in 1949.

Alberta has requested that the following conditions be met by the federal government and the Band as the survey and transfer take place: that the federal government take over oil and gas leasehold interests on behalf of the Band, that a fair and equitable settlement of Metis and other third party interests be provided, and that the Band withdraw its litigation against Alberta.

Alberta's action meets provincial obligations to the federal government on behalf of Treaty Indians as expressed in the Constitution Act (1930), including the transfer of subsurface mines and mineral rights.

"The Province's proposal was advanced in order that the land claim could be settled and thus assist the Band and the Metis community of Little Buffalo to take advantage of current economic and employment opportunities in the surrounding area," said the Minister.

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The M.L.A. for Peace River, Al "Boomer" Adair, added, "I am pleased that the Alberta Government presented this proposal, and that it has been accepted, in order to resolve a long outstanding land claim by the Lubicon Lake Band; and at the same time assurance is given to the Metis residents of the Little Buffalo area that their interests will be dealt with in a fair and equitable manner."

"With this agreement, Canada, the Provincial Government, and the Native people in the Little Buffalo area can better work together on pressing concerns such as housing, jobs, and a school for the community," concluded Mr. Pahl.

- 30 -

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News release re treaty land entitlement claim of the Lubicon Lake Indian Band.

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